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Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council

S-23/1. Atrocities committed by the terrorist group Boko Haram and its effects on human rights in the affected States

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant international human rights instruments,

Reaffirming that all States have the responsibility to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant international human rights instruments to which they are a party,

Recalling the mandate of the Human Rights Council as set out in General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006,

Stressing the importance of all resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on measures to eliminate international terrorism, including resolutions 42/159 of 7 December 1987, 46/51 of 9 December 1991, 49/60 of 9 December 1994, 60/288 of 8 September 2006, 68/119 of 16 December 2013, 68/178 of 18 December 2013 and 69/127 of 18 December 2014, and reaffirming the commitments resulting from the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars,

Recalling previous resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights on human rights and terrorism and the resolutions of the Human Rights Council on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and the resolution 18/10 of 29 September 2011 on human rights and issues relating to hostage-taking by terrorists,

Recalling also Security Council resolutions 1269 (1999) of 19 October 1999, 1368 (2001) of 12 September 2001, 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001 and 2133 (2014) of 27 January 2014, the Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism adopted by the Organization of African Unity on 14 July 1999, the solemn declaration adopted on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization of African Unity / African Union, in May 2013, and the decision on Boko Haram adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council on 23 May 2014,

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Recalling further the statements by the President of the Security Council S/PRST/2014/17, made on 27 August 2014, and S/PRST/2015/4, made on 19 January 2015,

Welcoming the declaration of the African Union on Boko Haram, adopted on 31 January 2015 at the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Assembly of African Union Heads of State and Government,

Welcoming also the conclusions of the meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of Defence on Boko Haram, of 20 January2015, in Niamey,

Welcoming further the Yaoundé Declaration of States members of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa, on the fight against the terrorist group Boko Haram, of 16 February 2015,

Recalling the need to strengthen international, regional and subregional cooperation to efficiently prevent and counter terrorism and the conditions conducive to terrorism, including by strengthening the national capacity of the States concerned,

Reaffirming also that the promotion and protection of human rights for all and the rule of law are essential to the fight against terrorism, and recognizing that effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting goals but are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Expressing concern at the continuing increase in incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking by terrorists and their impact on the realization and enjoyment of human rights,

Noting with deep concern that the activities of Boko Haram significantly disrupt the socioeconomic life of the populations in the north-eastern part of Nigeria and neighbouring areas of the Lake Chad Basin, in northern Cameroon, in Chad and the extreme east of the Niger,

Strongly condemning the heinous terrorist activities of Boko Haram, which endanger the peace, security and stability of the entire region,

Reaffirming that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality civilization or ethnic group,

Deeply concerned by the continued atrocities and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law committed by the terrorist organisation called Boko Haram, including those involving the targeting of civilians, including children, school girls, women, minority religious and ethnic groups, educational institutions, market places public transport, as well as the recruitment and use of children, sexual and gender based violence, the destruction and confiscation of public and private property, and the use of minors and forced recruitment of female suicide bombers, including children and female suicide bombers,

Emphasizing that, by committing these terrorist acts, Boko Haram gravely abuses human rights and violates international humanitarian law, radically hindering the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the areas where these attacks take place,

Strongly condemning and also rejecting the cowardly abduction by Boko Haram, on 14 April 2014, of more than 200 girls from a school in the city of Chibok in the Borno State of Nigeria, whose fate remains unknown, as well as other subsequent abductions, and demands the immediate and unconditional release of the high school girls and other abductees and expresses its solidarity with their families,

Expressing its solidarity with the people of Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and the Niger who suffer the hardships of the terrorist activities of Boko Haram, and takes note of the efforts of the Governments of Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Benin to respond to such acts of terrorism,

Welcoming the leading role played by the African Union and by subregional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States, the Economic Community of Central African States and the Lake Chad Basin Commission to address the threats posed by Boko Haram, and expressing support for their aim to fight the terrorist organisation called Boko Haram,

Declaring itself deeply concerned about the large number of displaced persons and refugees in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Benin,

1. *Condemns in the strongest terms* the gross abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law perpetrated by the terrorist group Boko Haram;

2. *Calls upon* those who provide support and resources to Boko Haram to put an immediate end to any such support that is contrary to international human rights law, as well as relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Security Council, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Economic Community of Central African States and the Lake Chad Basin Commission;

3. *Urges* all parties not to lend any legitimacy to terrorist acts;

4. *Calls for* increased collaboration of the international community with the States affected by the terrorist activities of Boko Haram to monitor and to dry up all possible sources of financing.;

5. *Welcomes* the assistance provided by some States to African States in the fight against terrorism, and calls upon the international community to provide more active and multifaceted support for Cameroon, Chad, the Niger, Nigeria and any other State affected by the actions of the terrorist group Boko Haram on their request, and in close collaboration with their respective Governments;

6. *Further calls upon* States and the international community to support, the multinational joint task force established by the African Union as appropriate, for the deployment of the task force, which includes troops from Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, the Niger and Benin, by providing the said task force with technical assistance;

7. *Calls for* the perpetrators of the heinous crimes committed by the terrorist group Boko Haram to be brought before the competent courts of the affected States to ensure that those responsible for abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, including attacks targeting civilians, are held accountable;

8. *Urges* States to protect human rights while fighting terrorism, including through increased cooperation and full implementation of relevant international conventions and resolutions, and highlights the need to strengthen coordination at the national, subregional, regional and international levels to reinforce the global response to terrorism;

9. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to collect information from affected States and in close cooperation and consultation with them, in order to prepare a report on violations and abuses of human rights and atrocities committed by the terrorist group Boko Haram in the States affected by such acts, with a view towards accountability, and to provide an oral update, as part of an interactive dialogue, to be held at the twenty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council and to submit a report for its consideration at its thirtieth session.

2nd meeting
1 April 2015

[Adopted without a vote.]